

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2004.03.27.a](#)

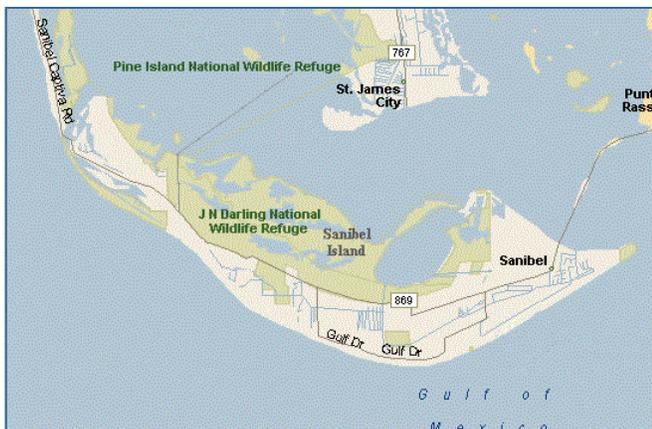
**DATE:** Saturday March 27, 2004

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Sanibel Island, Lee County, Florida, USA.

26.4°N, 82.1°W

**NAME:** Peter G. Hoffman

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer is a 61-year-old male, a tourist from Germany.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** The sky was clear and winds varied from five to 10 mph. At 08h53, Fort Myers recorded clear skies and 10 mile visibility. The air temperature was 72°F [22.2°C], dew point 60.1°F [15.6°C], humidity 66%, sea level pressure 30.25 inches [1024.2 hPa], and wind was from the East at 11.5 mph [18.5 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, March 28, 2004

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water temperature was 69°F (estimated).

**ENVIRONMENT:** The area consists of sandy bottom with scattered rock reefs.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 400 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:** 15 to 20 feet

**TIME:** 08h39

**NARRATIVE:** Approximately 30 people were on the beach and about five people were in the water. Peter Hoffman was swimming off the beach when something grabbed his arm. He said that he saw a dark shadow, but was unable to estimate its size.

**INJURY:** The swimmer's right arm was abraded and he sustained minor lacerations.

**TREATMENT:** Police and rescue personnel were dispatched to the scene and the swimmer was treated for minor cuts. No photographs of the injury were taken, and the swimmer did not require hospitalization.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Although Hoffman could not confirm that he collided with a shark, witnesses reported seeing a large shark, possibly a bull shark or lemon shark, in the immediate vicinity. EMS Medic Ricciardi also confirmed the swimmer had been injured by a shark. It was thought this incident could have resulted from an investigative bump by the shark.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Tom Jerome, Shark Research Institute